

Provisional List of Potential Technical Service Providers with Organic Expertise **(3-17-09)**

National

National Center for Appropriate Technology

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NCAT staff has developed dozens of organic workshops specifically designed for farmers, CES and NRCS staff, and written over 100 publications specific to organics which are available upon request by phone or via the web. NCAT's ATTRA project is one of the prime national sources for farmers seeking information about organic production and marketing. ATTRA has toll-free lines staffed 12 hours per day in both English and Spanish to respond to questions from farmers and agricultural professionals about any aspect of organic production. Staff available for technical assistance in organics include 12 who have passed the IOIA Organic Crop or Livestock Certification courses, have on-farm organic production experience, and/or experience research and writing about organic agriculture.

Rodale Institute

Greg Bowman
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The Rodale Institute outreaches to farmers in North America and around the world to promote economically viable sustainable farming techniques that benefit human health and the environment. Through its website www.rodaleinstitute.org, the Institute offers: 1) the online Organic Transition Course (no charge) with its online Organic System Plan worksheet; 2) the weekly Organic Price Report, comparing U.S. organic and non-organic prices in various locations; and 3) the New Farm webzine featuring accounts by and about farmers and researchers practicing cutting-edge organic agriculture. Its initiatives demonstrate how biologically based farming can cut greenhouse gas emissions, improve the nutrient value of food, and fight hunger worldwide.

Mid-Atlantic

Pennsylvania Association for Sustainable Agriculture

Brian Snyder
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Through its Farm Based Education program PASA promotes and demonstrates sustainable and organic farming methods. The program supports others seeking to initiate training and awareness-raising in the area by providing funding, technical support and event coordination/publicity where needed.

Midwest

Center for Rural Affairs

Martin Kleinschmit, Rural Opportunities and Stewardship Program Sustainable Agriculture Specialist
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Experience training NRCS staff on sustainable and organic agriculture.

The Land Connection

Terra Brockman

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The Land Connection delivers workshops and field days, sometimes in conjunction with other organizations, on subjects ranging from organic transition to direct marketing.

Midwest Organic and Sustainable Education Service, Inc.

Contact: Faye Jones

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Produces a comprehensive organic certification guidebook, educational resources and fact sheets for transitional farmers; holds farm field days and workshops; disseminates information through newsletters; holds annual conference with workshop and training content. MOSES has partnered with SARE and University of Wisconsin extension on long term educational activities. Also runs an organic transition telephone advice line and organic farmer mentoring projects.

Practical Farmers of Iowa

Teresa Opheim

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Partner with educators and other agriculture professionals in the delivery of workshops and training opportunities at their annual conference, field days and district events. PFI also disseminates news, research and information to its members. PFI members carry out small scale trials to meet annual research objectives on subjects including; cover cropping comparisons; field efficiency; and manure analysis.

Northeast**Northeast Organic Dairy Producers Alliance (NODPA)**

Ed Maltby

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NODPA is the largest grassroots organic dairy farmer organization in the country dedicated to peer mentoring and providing professional support and advice on production methods to organic dairy farmers. NODPA works closely with its sister organizations in the Western (WODPA), and the Midwest (MODPA) under the umbrella of the Federation Of Organic Dairy Farmers, (FOOD Farmers). NODPA organizes an annual meeting and Field Days Event; produces and distributes 3,000 copies of the NODPA News bi-monthly newsletter; moderates an organic dairy electronic discussion group with over 950 subscribing members (odairy-subscribe@yahooogroups.com); updates and maintains a web site that includes educational information on animal health, grazing management, industry news, certification, classifieds, calendar events, and a business directory (www.organicmilk.org, www.nodpa.com).

Northeast Organic Farming Association of Vermont (NOFA-VT)

David Rogers

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NOFA-VT Dairy & Livestock Technical Assistance Program provides; 1. Consulting, advising and technical assistance; 2. Training, advanced technical workshops and informational meetings, and; 3. Web based support, technical assistance and materials - to commercial farmers, part-time farmers, landowners, prospective farmers and agricultural service providers. NOFA-VT also facilitates the connection of farmers and apprentices through their Apprentice and Willing Worker program. In addition NOFA VT

also works to develop agricultural awareness in the wider community by building ongoing relationships between local communities, their farms and schools.

NOFA-VT is a technical service provider of the Vermont Farm Viability Enhancement Program, as are the Intervale Foundation, University of Vermont Extension, and Working Landscapes. As a provider, NOFA-VT is able to offer on-farm technical assistance in production and business planning to organic and transitioning vegetable, grain, dairy and livestock farms in Vermont.

Vermont Pasture Network

Rachel Gilker

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Vermont Pasture Network (VPN) - Pasture Program provides technical assistance in many and grazing planning, as well as research in support of grass-based livestock farming to farmers (both organic and non-organic) throughout Vermont and in the northeast region. VPN has partnered with NRCS to provide technical assistance and grazing plans for farmers involved in the NRCS cost share program. VPN has also worked with National Organic Farming Association of Vermont (NOFA-VT) to provide technical assistance to improve on farm nutrient balances, to reduce nutrient pollution.

South

Federation of Southern Cooperatives

Ralph Paige

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Sustainable Agriculture project aims to help farmers develop successful family farm businesses through; Developing agriculture cooperatives, financial analysis of farms, alternative crop analysis. Further project areas include; technical assistance in setting individual farm goals; technical assistance in farm management; assistance in debt restructuring.

Georgia Organics

Contact: Alice Rolls

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Annual conference provides an opportunity for 30+ workshops on many areas including speciality crops/marketing/CSAs. GO has formed a Working Group to address the challenges and opportunities of reducing pesticide use in three regionally grown crops - which will feed into workshops and field demonstrations to educate growers and trainers alike. Other projects include; farm mentoring; developing a curriculum for sustainable and organic farmers to be used at all levels of education; and, producing a local food guide to assist growers in connecting with consumers.

Rural Advancement Foundation International – USA

Benny Bunting

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RAFI's Farm Sustainability Program serves small and mid-scale family farmers by assisting them in transitioning to more sustainable farming operations and increasing their chances for success. The program assists individual farmers who are facing financial crisis and provides training and publications for farmers and advocates on significant agricultural issues.

Southern Sustainable Agriculture Working Group (SSAWG)

Jim Lukens

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Serves the 13 USDA Southern Region states. Annual conference for educational sessions and networking opportunities. Also have an education program with educational courses for organic producers and produce training materials (DVD/CD) utilized by growers, NGOs and service providers. Organized an experienced organic farmers network, that is utilized to help those whose needs and experience are beyond current research scope.

West**California Certified Organic Farmers (CCOF)**

Claudia Reid

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Flagship 'Going Organic' project provides a network of support for farmers interested in transitioning to organic by addressing systemic, economic, and technical barriers to organic conversion. This is administered through a separate entity to the CCOF Certification Services.

Colorado Organic Producers Association

Jim Dyer

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Work on outreach and dissemination of organic production and marketing information utilizing a website, newsletters and an annual three day conference in partnership with Colorado State University.

Hawaii Organic Farmers Association

Contact: Susan Sanford

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Although a Certification provider - In conjunction with Hawaii State Dept of Ag HOFA released an Organic Products Directory. This resource documents Hawaii's organic farmers and their crops, as well as a multitude of information sources valuable to farmers such as market information, seed sources, agriculture supply stores, etc.

Marin Organic

Helge Hellberg

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Run 'on the farm' workshops in conjunction with UC Cooperative Extension Farm Advisors for organic and sustainable practices. Topics cover; production; marketing strategy; soil conditioning. The focus is also region specific, for example reflecting the good conditions for potential high return caneberries (raspberry and blackberry). Works with the Marin County Agriculture Commissioner's Office to connect producers with a source for certification advice.

Rural Roots – Community Food Systems Association

Colette DePhelps

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Cultivating Success, its sustainable small farms education program, offers a series of courses that provide beginning and existing farmers with the planning and decision-making tools, production skills and support necessary to develop a sustainable small acreage farm. Courses are offered in various locations in Washington and Idaho, to audiences that include academic students, new and experienced farmers, immigrant farmers, and agricultural professionals.

Southwest Marketing Network (SWMN)

Jim Dyer

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Serving AZ, CO, NM, and UT; SWMN has approx 3500 on mailing list and works on outreach and dissemination of production and marketing information, encompassing organic. Has a website, newsletter, and holds an annual conference to reach producers.